## HE OLD COMPRADORE'S GOGGLES

criminal."

'What would you suggest, then?"

His visitor thought for a moment or two, and then taking out of his sleeve a small magnifying glass, gave the letter a careful examination. Laying it down the table again and leaning back in the large office chair, he answered: "You are of course aware. Bir Arthur, that Chinese chirography has all the individual characteristics of European permanship—in fact. a of European penmanship—in fact. a tolerably long acquaintance with both tolerably long acquaintance with both languages leads me to say that it has even more. Our people cannot only identify the person very easily from his writing, but some become very expert in delineating his character from the various light and heavy strokes which he makes with the brush. They claim to do that in England, too, do they not?"

"Yes, I have seen some remarkable instances of it. Scotland Yard has, I am told, several persons in its employ who make this a special study."

"Well, I will ask you to do me the

"Well, I will ask you to do me the favor to allow me to take the letter away with me for a few days and submit it, in perfect confidence, to one or two friends of mine who pride themselves on being expert fortune-tellers in this particular line."

"It shall be as you say. Mr. Wang," and folding the letter up and replacing it in its red native envelope, he handed it over to him. \* \* \* \*

Now the letter in question had troubled the new commissioner more than anything that had come to his desk since his arrival in the port; so much so, in fact, that he had decided, after several conferences with Inspector McArthur of the police, to ask Mr. Wang Foo, who happened to have to come up from Hong Kong and help them in the solution of the mystery, which up to the present had completely baffied the officials at Shanghai. The mystery was really threefold, viz: First, who was the writer? Second, why had he sent it? Third, how had it come into the inside of a strorely locked desk? For when the office boy handed the commissioner his Chinese mail just before tiffin, the latter had counted them over carefully and they were just eight in number. He laid them together in a little pile on the center of his blotter—intending to open and read them on his return—carefully locked his roller top desk and went down to the club, telling the aged and very sleepy boy on duty that he would be back in the course of an hour, and that in the meantime no one was to be admitted to the room. When he came back and opened his desk, what was his astonishment to find that another letter had been added to the eight already there and that they had been resorted and carefully arranged in three piles of exactly three letters each! Not only this, but there was a peculiar method in the arrangement, which indicated that the villain, whoever he was, had not placed them there by chance or mere accident. The center pile was laid exactly horizontally and parallel to the edge of the desk, while the time on the right and left side, respectively, sloped up at an angle which made them correspond to the first three sides of an octagon—thus outlinging the "Pak Kwah" or "The Eight Diagrams" the so much so, in fact, that he had decided, after several conferences with

at an angle which made them correspond to the first times sides of an octagon—thus outlining the "Pak Kwah" of "The Eight Diagrams," the most famous of all the symbols in the Chinese mythology.

"Well, there is certainly method in this madness!" exclaimed Sir Arthur, as he rang the bell for the boy. "Whe have come this room side while I go timn?" he asked of the "boy" (as he called him, though his age must have been very near sixty).

"My can s-clurs no man comee dis side, my have sit dis chair all times." was the immediate response.

"When I go timn, have got eight pleece letter in my desk side—when I come back have got nine pleece! How fashlon that, eh? You come look see!"

The boy turned his eyes toward the desk where the three piles of letters lay as yet undisturbed—one glance was enough, throwing both hands up into the air, he cried: "Pak Kwah! Pak Kwah! (The Eight Diagrams!) B'llonges icc. Pak Kwah! (The Eight Diagrams!)
The Eight Diagrams!) B'longee joss-

The Eight Diagrams!) B'longee josspidgin. No Chinee man he do so fashion. My talkee tlue, one plecee joss hab' comee dis side do dis."

"In other words, then," smiled the commissioner, "you and I have come to the same conclusion, namely: it is elther ghost or joss, which practically amounts to the same thing."

"The "ghost or joss" solution, however, was very far from satisfying the mind of Inspector McArthur, who regarded it as simply a piece of native villainy, with a little superstition thrown in—or "sprinkled over the top like sugar on a cake," as he felicitously expressed it, just to head off any inquiries on the part of the servants. Wang Foo was clearly of the very same opinion, even though he had asked that the letters be replaced on the desk in exactly the

runs over the country. It wasn't be-cause Miss Florence lacked an ap-preciation of this most glorious fareastern sport, but simply because her devoted and overcareful mamma her devoted and overcareful mamma had declared that she didn't propose to have her only daughter risk her dear life on the back of one of those "awful Mongolian ponies." This audear life on the back of one of those "awful Mongolian ponies." This autumn, however, she had finally been induced to give her consent, but only upon the repeated assurance of Dr. Holloway, the American consul, that he would himself select and try out the pony beforehand and have his own daughter (who was reputed to be one of the best and most fearless riders in China) go on a preliminary run or two with the creature before run or two with the creature before the day of the hunt. So the after-noon of the November "meet" found Miss Florence securely mounted on Miss Holloway's favorite pony and galloping over the fields as freely and easily as if she were back on her and easily as it she were tack on her grandfather's old farm in Vermont.
"How well you ride, Miss Mac-Pherson; why, you're no more a 'griffin' than your pony is!" exclaimed young Anthony Lowder of the Maratime Customs as he drew up alongside and politely doffed his racing

time that I was on a horse's back. Mr. Lowder, and, after all, I don't believe these Mongolian animals are really a bit harder or more danger-

Arthur Dukelow, who had recommended that the control of the contro

THE ONLY OBJECT VISIBLE THROUGH THE OPENINGS WAS THE OLD BRICK HOUSE. COULD IT BE POSSIBLE THAT THE TWO LOST TREASURES WERE REALLY THERE!

diminutive farms she found herself on the old Pagoda road and going for it was perfectly evident from rapidly back to the settlement. The "gay cavalier," however, was not quite so fortunate. His mount darted across the neighboring fields and in a few moments reached the edge of Pagoda creek, where, stopping suddenly at the slippery bank, he tried to keep from sliding down into the company of the stopping and the guards on the pier. ("The River King is coming! The will bless the customs pier") He saw it come nearer until it touched the pier and stopped right in front of the storeoom. It then swung around and made fast, with the stern several feet under the flooring.

The Old Compradore's Goggles."

The Said the guards on the pier. ("The River King is coming! The River King is co a few moments reached the edge of Pagoda creek, where, stopping suddenly at the slippery bank, he tried to keep from sliding down into the water, but the incline was too steep for him and the animal, and they both roiled over to the very edge of the stream. The pony, by a tremendous effort, struggled out of the predicament and, freed from his burden, started on a beeline for the town, leaving his helpless rider bleeding and unconscious in the mud

Fortunately—or unfortunately, as

The same conclusion, namely: It is seen and conclusion, namely: It is graphy bank, but the simply bank, but the si

know, but the Master said: 'Mercy brings the reward of Heaven!")

The apt quotation from the sacred classics produced its usual magical effect upon the native mind, and the old man admitted them and had them place the Englishman on the rough straw couch while he produced the customary tea and pipes. As they left he drew out of his girdle two short strings of brass cash and—to their utter surprise and delight—handed the money to them with these words: 'In the name of all the Buddhas, see that you speak of this to no man. Keep it a profound

have been any prearranged kidnap- said the guards on the pier. ("The

a hundred yards away and directly at right angles to the bridge. (This structure, by the way, was one of those old double arches, so common in that part of China, and rejoiced in the euphonious title of "The Dragon's Eyes.") They knocked at the door, which, after a short delay, was opened very cautionsly by the aged occupant of the dwelling.

"Well, what have you there?" was the somewhat anxious inquiry.

"An injured foreigner whom we picked up on the bank of the creek," was the reply.

"Ah! A rider, I see"—pointing sigwas the reply.

"Ah! A rider, I see"—pointing significantly to his boots and spurs.
"Why do you not take him back to the foreign city? I do not want him here. It serves him right for recklersly destroying our fields the way they do."

"Lao Ye Chuin Tse poo chi yiu sho, tak tan Tse yueh, lien ming yin tlen mang! (Venerable father, that the superior man is not a utensil' we all know, but the Master said: "Mercy, brings the reward of Heaven!")

"The old Compradore's Goggles?" Is that also a blind?"

"Yerhaps."

"We had better divide into four parties here, then," said Maj. Camppatries here, then," said Maj. Camppatries here. It was directly, as Europeans would do, they are going about it in this roundabout manner. Now, hearing of the disappearance of a customs employe, they all these fields thoroughly tor hoot-prints—though I must confess it's mud—and we will meet again at the sold stone bridge they call 'The Dragon's Eyes.'"

"And what do you think it meant by brings the reward of Heaven!")

"The old Compradore's Goggles?" Is that also a blind?"

"Perhaps."

"We had better divide into four "We had better divide into four parties here, then," said Maj. Camppatries here, then, "we had better divide into four."

"We had better divide into no.".

"We had better divide into no.".

"We had better divide into no.".

believe these Mongolian animals are really a bit harder or more dangerous to break in than many a plain New England colt."

"I don't think so, either," replied the young officer, as they both slowed down their gait and gave their ponies a chance to get their wind again. "But I still feel very sure that some natives have found him and have contact that fits this particular case."

The "thinking cap" which Wang Foo put on that same evening would the who dwells by "The Dragon's Eyes is sheltering the foreign tramplers of our fields, the vengeance of all the neighborhood will come down their gait and gave their ponies of our fields, the vengeance of all the neighborhood will come down their gait and gave their wind again. "But I still feel very sure that some natives have found him and have concaled him in their home."

The "thinking cap" which Wang Foo put on that same evening would the word will have been recognized by the commissioner—or, indeed, by any of his friends—for it was a complete and perfect disguise. He had entered his house as a Chinese gentleman and he had emerged later on as a critical fits this particular case."

The "thinking cap" which Wang Foo put on that same evening would have been recognized by the commissioner—or, indeed, by any of his friends—for it was a complete and perfect disguise. He had entered his house as a Chinese gentleman and he had emerged later on as a critical fits the very sure that some natives have found him and have concaled him in their home."

The "thinking cap" which Wang Foo put on that same evening would come and tell us if they had, wouldn't they?"

They might and they might do the very opposite thing."

The particular case."

The "thinking cap" which Wang Foo put on that same evening would have been recognized by the commissioner—or, indeed, by any of his friends—for it was a complete and perfect disguise. He had entered his had emerged later on as a critical fits the still case." as chance to get their wind again. By the way, excuse my asking, but is your mother way, excuse my asking, but is your mother riding, too, this afternoon. The property of the way is a complete and the professor was innocent enough by the professor was innocent enough the professor was innocent enough that professor was innocent the way.

The contents of the mysterious left. The matter of the was a complete and offinition and finally were obliged to return to the truly and emorged later and emorg

searching party drew up at the en-

through the arches to their companions.

"What do you call this game," he asked.

"Oh!" they replied, "we call it "Wan Lao Tai Pan Ching Tse. Haven't you ever seen it before?"

Wang Foo started up suddenly and running down to the bank where they stood, looked through the arches of the old bridge. The reflection in the water made the two perfect circles of one of the old "spectacle bridges,"

"Well perhaps not, but then, you see, if he hadn't bolted, why you and I would not be here now, would we?"

"No. I suppose not: we might just be dranking tea at one of your and the well we find the might just be dranking tea at one of your and the well we find then we shouldn't be alone, should we, Florence?" (Naughty boy he, to just drop the "Miss" before his nurse's name in this way without giving her any preliminary notice.)

"Alone?"

it was Anthony Lowder's voice!

It would have been folly to have attempted the rescue alone. He hurried back to the village. "The moon is so clear, I have decided to try to reach the city," he said, and saddling the old pony, he whipped him into his utmost speed and never stopped until they reached the gate of the American consulate.

How the rescue party was quietly the in this dear old land of China, as the guardian angel of a heartsick patient, you see?"

"And in memory of the event which brought it about, they would certainly call it 'a runaway match,' wouldn't they?"

"Who cares if they do?" was his reply, as he drew her nearer to him. And so it came to pass that when Mr. Anthony Lowder of the imperial maritime customs left the intitution

of the stolen opium in the inner room
—all this was told in a leading article
in the Daily News, but it still remissioner's desk.

YOU Americans are certainly the most adaptable creatures in the world," said a cheerful young patient in room No. 6 of the Shanghal Hospital to a nurse who brought him the good news of his early release. "Why, Miss McPherson, there doesn't seem to be any role you can't play, and play most successfully. Now who would have thought of your disguising your-

fore?"

"Done it before! Oh! so I look and act like an amateur. do I, then?" with a quizzleal point that suggested some little hurt feelings.

"No, no, not at all—you don't understand—I mean—that is—"

"That is, you haven't seen my little gold badge. That cross and shield is the proof of my two years' training in old St. Luke's, in Philadelphia."

"Why, how did you come to do that?"

"We St. China is full of that sert of the companion of the call the old bridge "The Compradore's Goggles?"

"Why, simply because that is a popular country name for it, and his brother, you see, had once been a compradore and had worn such goggles for years."

"What an ingenious play on words!"

should like to be ready. out of here for another two the classics. from Guy's had continued dropping

water made the two perfect circles of one of the old "spectacle bridges," and so they called the game "Looking Through the Old Compradore's Goggles."

He took one more glance—the only object visible was the old brick house! Could it be possible that the two lost treasures were really there? He waited until the children were gone and then slipped quietly up to the door—there could be no mistake—it was Anthony Lowder's voice!

giving her any preliminary notice.)

"Yes, and I shouldn't be able to tell you that I really am deeply religious—though I may not look it—and a profound believer in a lifelong penance?"

"But I don't want to be a nurse and stay in this hospital all my life." she gently protested.

"No, no; not in this hospital; but just in this dear old land of China, as it was Anthony Lowder's voice!

American consulate.

How the rescue party was quickly made up; how by midnight they reached "the Old Compradore's Goggles"; how they released Mr. Lowder, whom they found tied hand and foot to a bamboo bed; how they arrested the old man and took him to the city; how they discovered the hiding place of the stolen opium in the inner room—all this was told in a leading article in the Daily News but it still early s in the Daily News, but it still remained for Wang Foo to unrayel some of the inner connections between the blessings of the river king tween the blessings of the river king goods, and the assistant priest of goods, and the assistant priest of Biron King were all brothers

"But how could a younger brother, under the strict rules of the Confusions?" she said, with a smile, as she started to rearrange the flowers that some mysterious friend had placed on the table by his side. "Why, this isn't a disguise; this is simply putting on my old uniform again."

"But how could a younger brother, under the strict rules of the Confusion ethics, ever bring an accusation against an elder one? Is not that a most serious violation of the teaching—in fact, a crime?"

"Ah, you see, that is just the point.
That is where he "saved his face" as

# AROUND THE CITY

YES! This is the exact spot where his own affair, was selling papers on the corner the other afternoon.

fectly," said Miss McPherson, as the trance to the village where the ponies had been frightened. "He must have Some boys were playing soldiers.

There was a drum and a squeaky gone right off in the opposite direc- fife, and as they paraded by-flag in front and a make-believe tank bringing up the rear-an ancient man who was watching from the curb said to foundation for the shade. When

entel, middle-aged men are customed to the subdued light, took not addicted to selling newspapers on street corners, but
The young man put on his hat and there are always exceptions. took a secretive puff at his cigar-

And it is the exception that counts.

His averagely good clothes were well brushed, the shine of his shoes was and on his face—

Of it

At the third hoof.

The young man whipped off his hat and spiked his cigarette.

All of which is to say that while a man has a perfect right to keep on the wants to.

## he corner the other afternoon. And making good, Lord love him. | Pretty Lamp Shade of

on durable white paper used as the volunteers, who was directing the movements, "and scene and the volunteers, who was directing the movements, "and scene and the volunteers, who was directing the movements, "and scene and the volunteers, who was directing the movements, "and scene and the volunteers, who was directing the movements, "and scene and the volunteers, who was directing the movements, "and scene and the volunteers, who was the same that the volunteers and the volunteers, who was the same that the volunteers and the volunteers and the volunteers, who was the same that the volunteers and the volunteers a

fully arranged in knots or garlands. Geometrical figures placed in regular patterns afford a more precise dec-oration. There is no end to the pic-

By Sydney C. Partridge Lardner Applies for a

the River King were all brothers and all mixed up in the same family

game?"
"Quite true," remarked Sir Arthur,
"and who would have suspected that
same sleepy old office boy of mine
of having energy enough—or even
brains enough—to make a duplicate
key to my desk?"
"Or. again, who would have suspected the guards on the pier of

pected the guards on the pier of being foolish enough and careless enough to allow the River King's barge to tie up right under the oplum?"
"But how could a younger brother,

placed on the table by his side. "Why, this isn't a disguise; this is simply putting on my old uniform again."

"Your 'old uniform'—Why, you don't mean to say you've ever done it bemean to say you've ever done

that?"

"Yes, China is full of that sort of thing, and it means far more than to some one in this world some time—you know you never can tell when you may be needed, and I thought I should like to be ready."

words!"

"Yes, China is full of that sort of thing, and it means far more than the foreigners realize. He knew that if we stooped down and looked through the old arches we should see just that old house—and that was the very place where the crime. the very place where the opium was concealed. And then, perhaps, he recalled that famous old saying of

"Looking through the crystal spheres, One can gase upon the hidden treasures.

office to print up a few dozen resignation blanks with the reasons and regrets and etc. all filled in so as if they's any of the cabinet that can't write they won't feel embarrassed when it comes time to hand them one, and just leave a dotted line for them to put their signature or mark.

Now Mr. Harding, wile as I say I Now Mr. Harding, wile as I say I don't hold nothing vs. you for what you done and I understand why you couldn't do no different, yet it seems to me like your administration is

wided you know about have ever almost—alle sharp white of his iANNIE LANCASTER.

Imp Shade of

Paper and Chintz

act like a buffet between the President and the pests. Well, Mr. Harding, I am a past master in acting like a buffet but that wouldn't only take a small portion of my time and two long would spend most of my time makeing your job such a cinch that all as you would need to be scared of would be getting arrested for vagrancy.

But when the old man came to depart that evening there was the clerk.

A novel idea in decorating lamp shades is the use of bright-colored designs cut from chintz and placed on durable white paper used as the foundation for the shade. When

You would answer laughingly, "You will half to tell me witch arm you mean as I have forgot." That is a few samples of the gags I would frame up for you and in a little wile the papers would print the Washington news on the comical page

NOW Mr. Harding, I been reading in Mr. Bernstorff's book about his 2 years in America and he says in it that none of the government ask you to excuse me. It's my watch officials in Washington wile he was officials in Washington wile he was "Oh, stop your kiddin't said the here could speak any foreign language girl. 'Wheever heard of a water which was probably because they was liking as loud as that?"

"Master Mind" Position

what they was talking about.

I don't suppose you will have much trouble now with women pickets outside the yard, but if any of them does bang around and bother us, why, I am a past master in getting rid of women, All I generally half to do is go and set down by them.

I would play golf with you and keep score, and I believe I could save you many a stroke and I would go to vaudeville with you once a wk. and keep tickling you in the ribs so as the reporters could say you seemed to enjoy the show and laughed heartily, and when company dropped in in the evenings I would bring out my different musical instruments and see that nobody stayed late. I would be your Major Domo and your Col. House your Major Domo and your Col. House and about all as you would half to do would be to brush your own teeth

and get your pictures taken. \* \* \* \*

THAT is a outline of my conception of the secy, job and not only that but maybe my Mrs. could come along and cook for you and as for references she has only worked in one family since she started, witch speaks for itself. I can assure you she throws a "ON THE FIRST PLACE, OF mean waffle iron and is what I call COURSE, I WOULD TEND TO YOUR PAINTS PRESSED, AND KEEP YOUR PANTS PRESSED, AND ANSWER THE PHONE."

mean wame iron and is what I call painfully neat and clean. I and her could fix up liveing quarters over the garage and she would be satisfied with every Thursday and every other appt. I have heard of 3 or 4 of them and I suppose you have too and know something about them, but if I was you I would get the govt. printing of coarse the cook's wages would be



"AS FOR REFERENCES, SHE ONLY WORKED IN ONE FAMILY SINCE SHE STARTED, WHICH SPEAKS FOR ITSELF."

### Perseverance.

THE Duchesse de Clermont-Tonnerre

party certain strictures that had been passed upon the Navy. "Why." he went on, smiling whim-

sically, "that armchair critic is as ignorant as the girl on the Cunarder. "This girl, crossing to England, got friendly with one of the ship's offi-cers, a young man of twenty-five or so. The two were leaning side by side on the rail one day when the officer said: "There goes four bells. I must